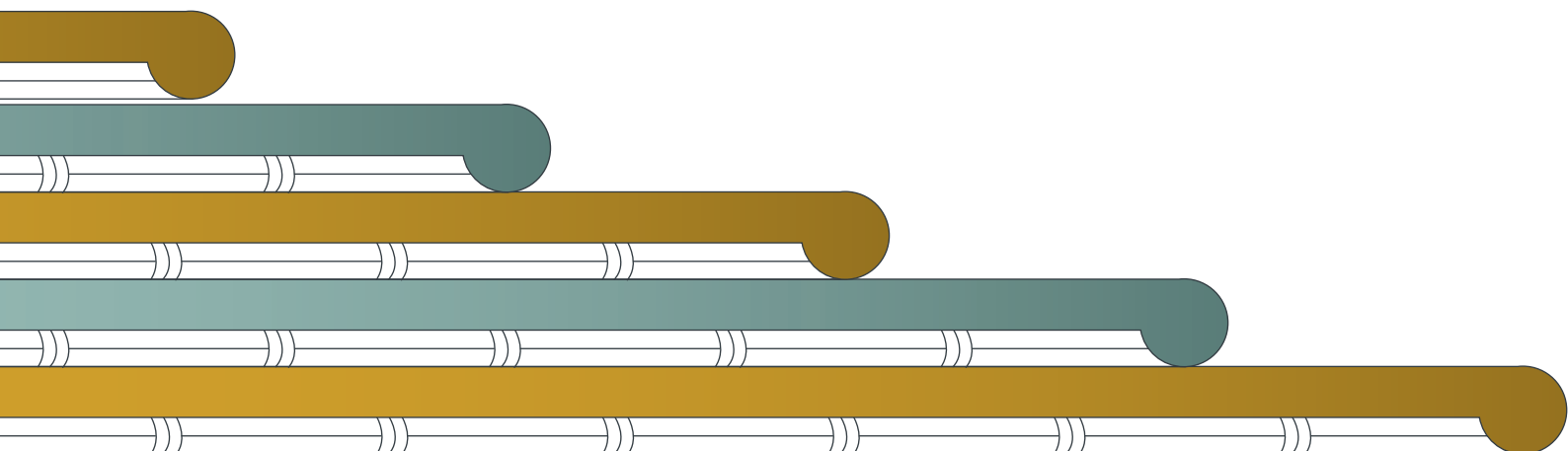


SECTION 7AA REPORT 2024

Ngā hua mō ngā tamariki Māori

Outcomes for tamariki Māori



Pukapuka
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Acknowledgements

Authors

Oranga Tamariki, November 2024

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the ongoing dedication, passion and commitment of our staff, strategic partners, hapū, iwi and hāpori that work together to make a change for tamariki and rangatahi. We recognise that this is a challenge that we all embrace and together we will be successful in changing the outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi.

Disclaimer

In this report, we use the references pēpi, tamaiti, tamariki, rangatahi, mokopuna and whānau only for those who whakapapa Māori.

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Reporting back on Section 7AA obligations

This report reflects our progress during the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

The Section 7AA Report 2024 is our fifth report and highlights the work undertaken

by Oranga Tamariki to meet our obligations as set out under section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989. Overall, Section 7AA requires our Chief Executive to improve outcomes and reduce disparities for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. The Chief Executive is required to report on the progress of this work once a year and share the actions Oranga Tamariki has taken to meet those obligations. Specific next steps must also be included for Oranga Tamariki to continue working towards those obligations over the following 12 months.



Section 7AA binds Oranga Tamariki to a **practical commitment** to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi by:



Ensuring policies and practice have the objective of **reducing disparities** by settling **measurable outcomes**



Ensuring policies, practices and services have regard to **mana tamaiti, whakapapa** and **whanaungatanga**



Seek to develop strategic partnerships with iwi and Māori organisations, including iwi authorities



Report annually and publicly on what the Ministry has done, the impact of those actions and immediate next steps

Review of our progress over the past five years

Our inaugural report in 2020¹ discussed the development of the Section 7AA legislation, outlined the operational duties of the Chief Executive, and detailed our system level approach to these duties. Meeting the legislated obligations had a fundamental aim for Oranga Tamariki to improve outcomes for tamariki Māori, hapū and iwi.

In that report we committed to:

- building and improving our relationships with iwi and Māori communities
- exploring further opportunities for delegating powers beyond the mechanisms that were currently available
- developing more partnerships, including strategic partners, with iwi and Māori organisations

- targeting our funding to increase the capability and capacity of iwi and Māori providers
- developing an approach with partners to implement Whāinga Amorangi through the Oranga Tamariki Māori cultural Framework
- applying the Section 7AA Quality Assurance standards for future reporting.

While there is room for improvement, we are pleased to highlight the progress Oranga Tamariki has made since Section 7AA was introduced:

- strategic partnerships grew from four in 2020, to ten in 2024
- building Whānau Care partnerships, with the aim to ensure tamariki who need care, are living safely with carers who have whakapapa connections to them through whānau, hapū and iwi
- establishing and building on Enabling Community prototypes

¹ Read more about our previous reports discussion Section 7AA legislation at: www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/performance-and-monitoring/section-7aa/section-7aa-report/

- the number of our contracted iwi/Māori providers grew from 130 in 2020 to 155 in 2024 and our targeted funding also increased to match the growth in providers
- Quality Assurance Standards² were used to assess a cross-section of policy, practice and services
- introduction of Māori specialist roles such as kairaranga ā-whānau roles to provide specialist functions within our regions and sites. These are critical to our engagements with tamariki and whānau Māori. They also support our local sites with cultural competency and hapū, iwi and community relationships
- developed Mana Tamaiti Objective measures and added more measures throughout this period
- introduced Te Hāpai Ō, our response to Whāinga Amorangi, the cultural competency framework for the core public service developed by Te Arawhiti.
- delegation of powers over this period have included Turuki Health Care Charitable Trust, Whakapai Hauora (Best Start Charitable Trust), Ngāti Awa Social and Health Services Trust (part of Eastern Bay of Plenty Alliance), and Barnardos New Zealand incorporated.
- continued to embed our Practice Approach³ to ensure our practice is relational, inclusive and restorative with the tamariki, whānau, communities and partners we work with.

Section 7AA has been repealed

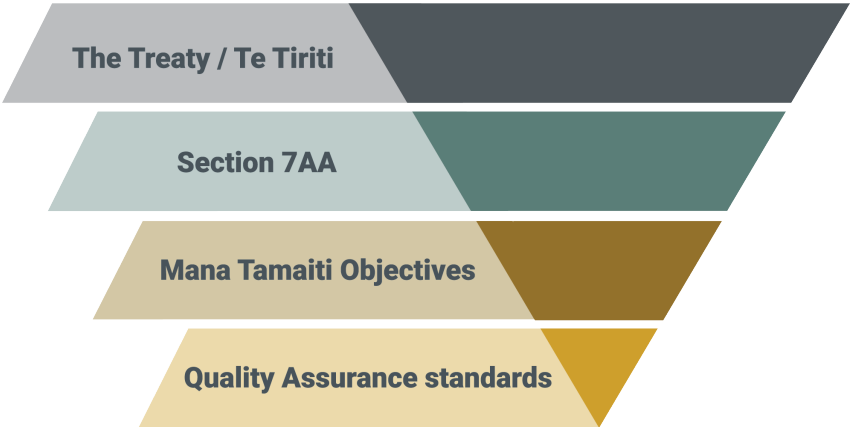
Section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act was repealed on 7 April 2025.

We are still committed to supporting the Independent Children's Monitor in their responsibilities and will continue to progress, monitor, and report on outcomes for Tamariki Māori to support greater transparency and accountability.

2 Read more about our Quality Assurance Standards to meet our obligations under section 7AA (2)(a) and (b) of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 and te Tiriti o Waitangi principles at: www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/performance-and-monitoring/section-7aa/section-7aa-quality-assurance-standards/

3 Read more information about our Practice Approach at: practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/practice-approach/

Te Wāhanga Tuatahi



The Treaty / Te Tiriti – The Crown, through its many agencies, are obligated to uphold the principles of the Treaty / te Tiriti which include, but are not limited to, partnership, active protection, equity, kāwanatanga and tino rangatiratanga. Section 7AA places responsibilities on the Chief Executive to recognise and provide a practical commitment to the principles of the Treaty / te Tiriti.

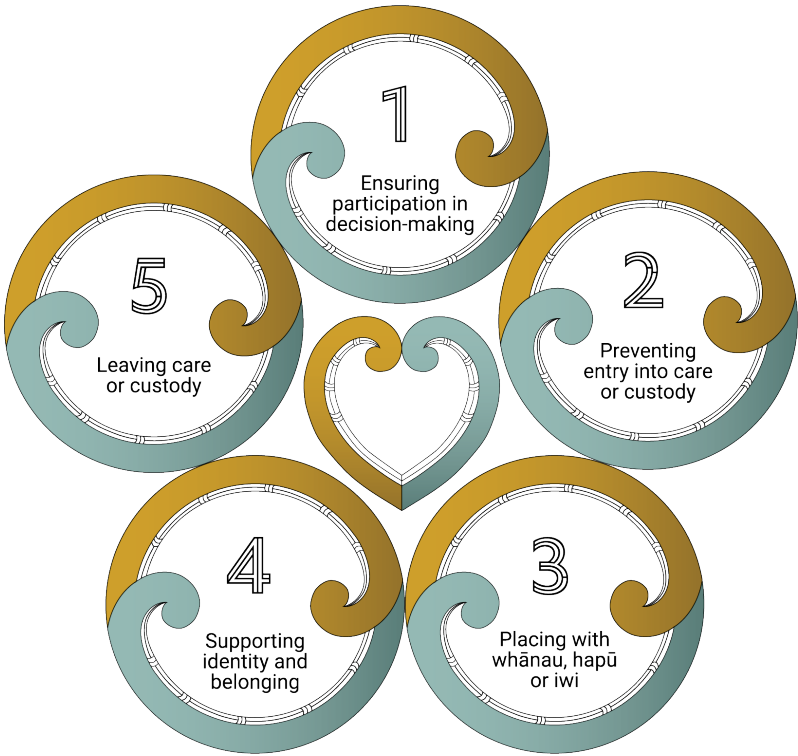
Section 7AA – Through Section 7AA we are required to (amongst other matters) set expectations and targets to improve outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi that come to our attention. We also must have regard to mana tamaiti (tamariki) and the whakapapa of tamariki and rangatahi and the whanaungatanga responsibilities of their whānau, hapū, and iwi.


Mana Tamaiti Objectives – The mana tamaiti objectives set the measures that will help us achieve our five outcomes. The objectives measure how we are doing in reducing disparities and disproportionality and maintaining connection with whānau and identity for tamariki and rangatahi in our care. The outcomes and objectives were co-designed with the Māori Design Group and were consulted and endorsed by key Māori strategic and community partners in 2019.

Quality Assurance Standards – Under Section 7AA we are also required to ensure that our policies and practices are making a difference. We have established five quality assurance standards that will help shift the way we develop our work from a monocultural lens to a Māori-centred approach. This will in time help improve the effectiveness of policies, practices and services for the tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau, hapū and iwi.

What our Mana Tamaiti Objectives have told us

The outcomes we measure are captured by the five Mana Tamaiti Objectives, shown above. We use measures set against each of these objectives to report on our efforts to improve outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori. A summary of these measure findings is outlined below.



Mana tamaiti objectives	Summary of measure findings
1 Ensuring participation in decision-making	 Overall our performance has decreased over the past 12 months towards this objective. All five prioritised measures are representative in nature, and only one measure is sourced directly from the voice of te tamaiti. This voices-centric measure remains the most insightful, but it was not available this year.
2 Preventing entry to care or custody	 We are concerned about this measure and our performance has not been able to reverse the increase of entries. An upturn in the total number of tamariki Māori entering care coupled with pre-2020 rates of Section 78 volumes is of significant concern. Reprioritising resources towards partner-led preventative-approaches will enable this objective to be better realised in the future.
3 Placing with whānau, hapū or iwi	 Performance towards this objective is stable - and has been for over the past five years. The success of Whānau Care and Enabling Communities partnerships has ensured, from the inception of Oranga Tamariki, most tamariki and rangatahi remain in the care of their whānau, hapū or iwi where possible.
4 Supporting identity and belonging	 We have performance knowledge gaps. Our record-keeping that helps us know and connect tamariki and rangatahi to their whānau, iwi and hapū remains relatively stable, though there is certainly room to improve our connection-building. However, Te Tohu o Te Ora survey was not run this year, so our understanding of tamariki-centric experiences are not available, leaving a significant gap in knowledge.
5 Leaving care or custody	 Our performance towards this objective is improving. Less tamariki and rangatahi have entered youth justice residences, and less and less tamariki and rangatahi have 're-entered' the statutory system after being released (from the youth justice system) or exiting (their care placement). Additionally, and perhaps relatedly, more and more tamariki and rangatahi have been referred to, and accepted, Transition Support Services.



Mana Tamaiti Objective One: Ensuring participation in decision-making

Oranga Tamariki will ensure the participation of tamariki, whānau, hapū and iwi in decisions affecting them

Tamariki and rangatahi have a right to participate in decisions that matter to them. Engaging with them and advocating for their participation in decision-making helps to ensure that the best decisions are being made for the individual tamariki, their whānau and their community. Tamariki participation in decision making can:

- Help foster positive outcomes for tamariki and their whānau
- Strengthen relationships and trust between kaimahi, tamariki, whānau and communities
- Built tamariki confidence, sense of agency, skills and knowledge.

Measure 1A	Percentage of tamariki Māori aged 10-17 who feel they have a say in important decisions about their life			
	FY 2020 ⁴	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	79%	80%	-	-
This result cannot be reported as the Te Tohu o te Ora survey was not run this year. Significant improvements are being incorporated into the survey in response to feedback from tamariki and rangatahi. Therefore, Te Tohu o te Ora will not be run until the 2024/25 financial year.				

Hearing the voices of care experienced rangatahi through the Youth Advisory Group

Oranga Tamariki convenes a Youth Advisory Group (YAG) made up of young people aged between 18-24 who have care or youth justice experience. The most recent YAG appointments began their two-year term in March 2023, and is made up of eight young people who represent a broad range of Māori, Pacific, disabled and takatāpui⁵ rangatahi who have care and protection and youth justice experience.

YAG members have emphasised taking a rights-based approach that honours Te Tiriti Waitangi.

One of the ten priority messages YAG developed for Oranga Tamariki is about 'Cultural Support and Connection', which formed a core part of the Group's advocacy over the past twelve months. YAG members have shared examples of the positive impact that cultural support and connection have had on their experience of the Oranga Tamariki System. Examples include:

- the benefits of connection with whakapapa in developing their sense of identity.
- improving the mental health of tamariki and rangatahi and lifting them out of crisis.
- breaking the intergenerational cycle of trauma and care system involvement.
- te āo Māori concepts such as rangatiratanga and whanaungatanga as a way to support kaimahi relationship building with rangatahi.
- the benefits of te āo Māori models in Youth Justice residences for both Māori and non-Māori residents.

YAG members have also shared the importance of Section 7AA to them and its role in holding Oranga Tamariki to account with leaders across the children's system including Minister for Children, the Oranga Tamariki Chief Executive and the Chief Children's Commissioner.

⁴ The data reported in the 2021 report has been superseded by the 2020/21 reporting of Wave 1, which includes the full national data (rather than only nine out of 12 regions initially reported in 2019/20) from Te Tohu o te Ora. More information about Te Tohu o te Ora can be found at: ot.govt.nz/about-us/research/our-research/te-matataki-2021/

⁵ Takatāpui⁵ is a Māori traditional word that means an 'intimate friend of the same sex'. However, it has since been embraced as the word to encompass all tangata Māori who identify as part of the rainbow community.

Measure 1B	Percentage of tamariki Māori in care for whom the views of their family, whānau, family group have been identified and considered.			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	N/A	80%	83%	78%

Measure 1C	Percentage of cases reviewed for tamariki Māori where there is evidence that parents were consulted before a decision was made about health or education matters			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	-	75%	74%	69%

Measure 1C.1(a)	There is evidence that a parent or other legal guardian was consulted as part of the decision-making about health matters (percentage)			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	-	86%	78%	79%

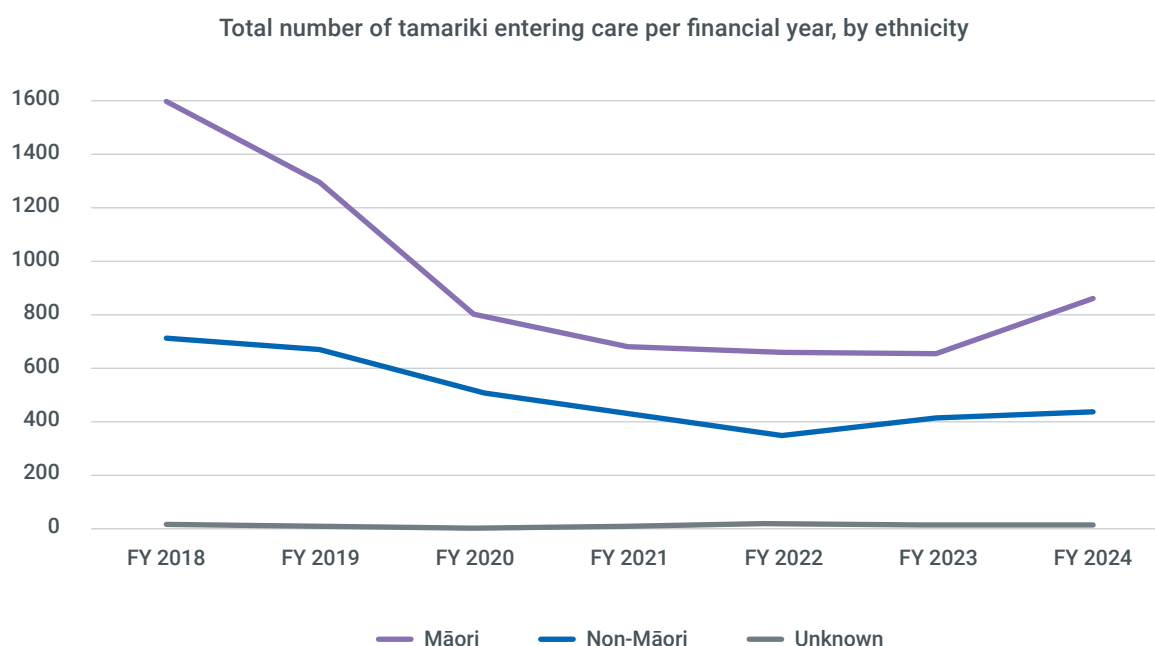
Measure 1C.1(b)	There is evidence that a parent or other legal guardian was consulted as part of the decision-making about education matters (percentage)			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	-	69%	70%	62%



Mana Tamaiti Objective Two: Preventing entry into care or custody

We will support, strengthen and assist whānau to care for their tamaiti to prevent the need for their removal from home into care or youth justice

Figure One shows entries into care have decreased significantly since the 2017/18 for children of all ages and ethnic groups, with the lowest ever in 2021/22. The largest decrease in entries to care over that time was for tamariki Māori, particularly pēpi Māori. Since then, entries have begun to increase with a notable increase for tamariki Māori in 2023/2024 compared to non-Māori.



Section 78 notices remain stable

Section 78 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 allows for the Court to place a tamaiti in the interim care of Oranga Tamariki when there are immediate concerns for their safety and wellbeing. Table One shows a breakdown of section 78 orders by financial year.

The total volume of section 78 orders being made for unborn and newborn pēpi annually continues to remain stable following a period of significant decline⁶. In many cases reviewed, whānau were engaged in a formal process to discuss concerns and create safety for pēpi prior to the section 78 application. We continue to consult with other professionals and in many cases support services are offered or provided.

⁶ Read more about our practice and decision-making for unborn and newborn pēpi who enter care under section 78 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 in the 2023/24 Annual Report at: <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/corporate-reports/annual-report/>

Table One: Distinct number of tamariki with section 78 orders⁷

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total number of all section 78 orders	1469	1171	623	413	400	498	611
Total Number of section 78 orders (distinct tamariki and rangatahi Māori)	1029	801	369	259	264	311	424
Total percentage of Māori section 78 orders	70%	68%	59%	61%	66%	62%	69%

Section 78 custody orders can be applied for in two ways:

- with notice where the application is served on the parent(s) before it is granted by the Court
- without notice where parent(s) are not informed of the application before it is granted by the Court.

Table Two shows a breakdown of the Section 78 notice types and overall percentage of tamariki Māori by type and financial year.

Table Two: Section 78 notice types and overall percentage of tamariki Māori by type and financial year⁸

	FY 2021			FY 2022			FY 2023			FY 2024		
	Tamariki Māori	Non-Māori	% of Tamariki Māori	Tamariki Māori	Non-Māori	% of Tamariki Māori	Tamariki Māori	Non-Māori	% of Tamariki Māori	Tamariki Māori	Non-Māori	% of Tamariki Māori
Section 78 with notice*	123	76	62%	105	76	58%	78	62	56%	90	45	67%
Section 78 Without notice*	136	78	64%	159	60	73%	233	125	65%	334	142	70%
TOTAL	259	154	63%	264	136	66%	311	187	62%	424	187	69%

Mamia: A marae-based ‘home away from home’

Mamia is the only marae-based kaupapa Māori child and maternal wellbeing model in Aotearoa New Zealand. It has been developed at Waipatu Marae, nestled on the outskirts of Hastings. The kaupapa provides a safe, tikanga Māori space for māmā and pēpi to drop in. Since the kāinga opened its doors, more than 200 māmā in the region have been supported.

Dr Aria Graham (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou, Tufuiopa Samoa) is the founder of Mamia in Hawke’s Bay. The kaupapa offers a safe and warm kāinga for māmā based on her PhD research, nursing practice and what she knows about whānau, tikanga and kawa.

Mami draws on Dr Graham’s research which has identified the significant power of having trusted relationships with other māmā and wāhine. In the kāinga māmā can meet other young māmā and enjoy food or rest and the support of volunteers.

Dr Graham believes other marae across Aotearoa could create a kāinga like Mamia. Former chair of Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngahiwi Tomoana, says Mamia is a model other marae shouldn’t be afraid of adopting as “Mamia gives a quiet place to reflect, to dream and to nurture.”

7 This is operational data subject to change and correct at time of extraction.

8 This is operational data subject to change and correct at time of extraction. FY2021 is the first full year we could report a full year of data on section 78 Without notice numbers.

Mamia is supported with funding from Tākai which is driven by communities and supported by the Oranga Tamariki Voices of Whānau and Community team who are part of the Māori Partnerships and Communities group (currently called the Enabling Communities and Investment group).

Investing in iwi and Māori providers and organisations

The Te Kahu Aroha report⁹ sets expectations for Oranga Tamariki to change the way it works with Māori and communities to deliver better outcomes for tamariki and whānau. The report highlighted the need for decision making and resources to be shifted to communities to better respond to and provide culturally appropriate and responsive services to address the disparities faced by tamariki, rangatahi Māori and their whānau. To support this, we have committed under our new strategy to reprioritise resources to enable partner-led preventative approaches – working towards at least 50 percent of funding being managed by partners.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Measure 2A Percentage of all service contract funding with iwi and Māori organisations	21%	24%	26%	29%	30%	33%
Measure 2B \$ spend with Māori/iwi providers	\$62.9m	\$83.8m	\$114.4m	\$146.1m	\$158.6m	\$190.2
Measure 2C Percentage increase on previous year \$ spend	15%	33%	36%	28%	8.6%	10%
Measure 2D Number of iwi/Māori providers	130	144	152	152	147	155



⁹ Read more about the Te Kahu Aroha report at: www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2021-09/SWRB082-OT-Report-FA-ENG-WEB.PDF



Mana Tamaiti Objective Three: Placing with whānau, hapū and iwi

If removal from home is necessary, we will preference placements for tamariki and rangatahi with members of their wider whānau, hapū, iwi or family group who are able to meet their needs, including a safe, stable and loving home

This objective is reflective of multiple principles in the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 that promote a tikanga-based approach to tamariki Māori. This approach has been inherent in the Act since 1989 but made explicit in 2019 with the introduction of Section 7AA to the Act.

Measure 3A	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for more than three months <u>living with a caregiver</u> , who are placed with Māori, non-whānau caregivers				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	9%	8%	7%	7%	8%

Measure 3A.1	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for more than three months <u>living with a caregiver</u> , who are placed with whānau				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	74%	76%	78%	76%	73%

Measure 3B	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care who are placed with at least one other sibling who is also in care,			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	76%	76%	76%	75%

Measure 3B.1	Number of tamariki Māori in care who have siblings also in care			
	1720	1453	1456	1218

Measure 3B.2	Number of tamariki Māori siblings placed together			
	1312	1098	1105	919

Whānau Care

Whānau Care is a partnership between Oranga Tamariki and an iwi, iwi mandated organisation, or other Māori organisation, where the Chief Executive entrusts the responsibilities of day-to-day care and protection to a partner to facilitate connection of tamariki to their whakapapa. Each Whānau Care partner designs their model, which is culturally constructed, unique to their own lens, and sets out how they will deliver recruitment and support services that will meet the needs of whānau, hapū and iwi.

Whānau Care as a kaupapa has been in operation since 2019 but is built on the platform laid by the kaumatua and kuia involved in Matua Whāngai and the recommendations of Pūao-Te-Ata-Tū¹⁰. The Oranga Tamariki Whānau Care team has been working alongside our regional teams to support iwi and Māori organisations to provide care to tamariki with shared whakapapa in their rohe. Whānau Care is a practical commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.¹¹

Whānau Care has supported 14 Māori social service providers to achieve level 1 396 accreditation, the first prerequisite for becoming a Care Partner, and is required before they can progress to the approval phase with Oranga Tamariki. It involves obtaining accreditation from Te Kāhui Kāhu, which provides assurance that organisations can safely deliver social services to their community, and acts as a type of 'Warrant of Fitness' check for social service providers. Further to this, Whānau Care has supported the 14 Māori social service providers to develop models of care, build relationships with staff across sites, write policies and procedures, develop assurance frameworks, and operationalise processes. This has led to over 200 tamariki Māori being transferred into the care of these providers.

Whānau Care partners

- Waitomo Papakāinga
- Ngāpuhi Iwi Social Services
- Te Hau Ora o Ngāpuhi
- Te Whānau o Waipareira Trust
- Te Iwi o Ngāti Kahu
- Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust
- Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated
- Ngāti Porou
- Te Atākura o Ngāti Ruanui
- Tupoho Social Services
- Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-Nui-ā-Rua
- Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa
- Ngāti Toa
- Tiaki Taoka

The Oranga Tamariki Whānau Care team have enabled partners to make a tangible impact through the connection and support of their communities, and to enable tamariki to enrich their connection to their whakapapa and identity.

Several Whānau Care partners are now in a position to grow their service and increase the number of tamariki and caregivers they support. This includes some that are working through Enabling Communities or Strategic Partnerships to expand their reach and support all tamariki.

¹⁰ Read more about the Pūao-Te-Ata-Tū report at: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/archive/1988-puaoteatatu.pdf

¹¹ Read more about section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 at: www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1989/0024/latest/DLM147088.html



Mana Tamaiti Objective Four: Supporting identity and belonging

We will support tamariki in custody of the Chief Executive to establish, maintain or strengthen their sense of belonging, through cultural identity and connections to whānau, hapū and iwi

These measures have been impacted as Te Tohu o te Ora, our national recurring survey of tamariki and rangatahi experiences in care, was not run this year. We saw a decrease in performance for three measures relating to practice supporting tamariki Māori to establish, maintain, or strengthen connections with their marae, hapū or iwi (beyond their immediate whānau connections, where high rates of support to strengthen connections were evidenced).

Measure 4A	Percentage of tamariki Māori who have identified an iwi affiliation				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	84%	89%	91%	92%	91%

Measure 4B	Percentage of tamariki Māori aged 10–17 who are in touch with their whānau as much as they want to be				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	-	73%	77%	-	-
This result cannot be reported as the Te Tohu o te Ora survey was not run this year. Significant improvements are being incorporated into the survey in response to feedback from tamariki and rangatahi. Therefore, Te Tohu o te Ora will not be run until 2024/25.					

Measure 4C	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10 – 17 who know their whakapapa				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	-	59%	56%	-	-
This result cannot be reported as the Te Tohu o te Ora survey was not run this year. Significant improvements are being incorporated into the survey in response to feedback from tamariki and rangatahi. Therefore, Te Tohu o te Ora will not be run until 2024/25.					

Measure 4D	Percentage of tamariki Māori aged 10-17 who have the opportunity to learn about their culture				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	-	79%	79%	-	-
This result cannot be reported as the Te Tohu o te Ora survey was not run this year. Significant improvements are being incorporated into the survey in response to feedback from tamariki and rangatahi. Therefore, Te Tohu o te Ora will not be run until 2024/25.					

Measure 4E	Percentage of tamariki Māori with an identifiable hapū				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	-	9%	13%	17%	20%

Measure 4F	Percentage of tamariki Māori in care who are being supported to have contact with their family/whānau / family group				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	-	-	87%	89%	86%

Measure 4G	Percentage of tamariki Māori in care for more than three months whose plan reflects actions to establish, maintain or strengthen connections with their whānau and/or marae, hapū or iwi				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	-	-	86%	87%	84%

Whiti ki te Ora – a twelve-week cultural programme supporting rangatahi

Hoani Waiti marae in west Auckland is successfully supporting rangatahi residing in Waitākere to heal from intergenerational trauma and supporting them back from a path of offending. While this is not a new approach for the marae it does reflect a new partnership with Oranga Tamariki. Hoani Waititi Marae is recognised as having the expertise to provide marae based kaupapa Māori education, intervention or support for rangatahi and their whānau to reconcile their offending in a marae environment. This collaboration has had two cohorts of rangatahi who have completed the course which is focused on guiding them on a positive journey.

The foundation of this programme is tikanga, bringing rangatahi to a marae environment, connecting them to their whakapapa and their identity as Māori. Recent graduates of the programme point to success factors of the marae-based programme as being able to share the journey with other rangatahi Māori, reconnecting with family and whakapapa and learning their pepeha. They talked of the positive results that developing skills and behaviours had, including having job opportunities open to them.

Whiti ki te Ora embrace the rangatahi by attending to their physical, spiritual and cultural needs and can help rangatahi transition back to school or into other courses. Whānau have shared that the course has supported their rangatahi to look at another pathway instead of offending and feel pride in their achievements.



Mana Tamaiti Objective Five: Leaving care or custody

We will support, strengthen and assist tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau to prepare them for their return home or transition into the community

The following measures tell us how well we are supporting tamariki and rangatahi who are leaving the custody of the Chief Executive to become independent with whānau love and support. Transition support services are for tamariki or rangatahi who are moving away from care or youth justice into adulthood. When rangatahi enter youth justice custody, planning for their exit or transition from a youth residence starts the day they enter. It is important they understand that residence is where they are now because of their actions, but with the right support it does not have to be their future.

Measure 5A	Percentage of tamariki Māori referred for another youth justice family group conference in the six months following release				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2021	FY 2022	Dec – July 2023
	63%	60%	59%	64%	62%
This measure has a six month reporting lag and we can only release six months of data for the latest year of measure.					

Measure 5A.1	Percentage admitted to a youth justice residence who are tamariki Māori				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	79% (702)	78% (559)	81% (638)	79% (864)	78% (729)
Entries is operational data and subject to change. A rangatahi may have two or more entry episodes in the reporting period and can be counted more than once.					

Measure 5B	Percentage of eligible rangatahi Māori referred to a transition worker				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	40%	58%	59%	64%	68%

Measure 5B.1	Percentage of eligible rangatahi Māori who have been offered a referral to Transition Support Services				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	46%	63%	68%	71%	73%

Re-entry into care

Measure 5C	Percentage of tamariki Māori exiting out-of-home placements in the 18 months prior who re-entered an out-of-home placement				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	-	21%	22%	22%	20%

MTO Measure 5C.1	Year-on-Year number and percentage of tamariki Māori exiting out-of-home placements in the 18 months prior who re-entered an out-of-home placement												
	Exit					Re-entry				Re-entry percentage			
Age group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	2021	2022	2023	2024	
0-4	354	244	216	495	30	28	21	40	8%	12%	10%	7%	
5-9	344	322	308	412	40	41	37	61	12%	13%	12%	15%	
10-14	497	459	437	510	152	133	131	218	31%	29%	30%	30%	
15	136	117	100	133	48	43	34	63	35%	37%	34%	32%	
16	118	113	112	119	39	26	35	56	33%	23%	31%	32%	
17	108	112	84	130	24	29	14	32	22%	24%	17%	20%	
Total	1557	1367	1257	1799	333	300	272	470	21%	22%	22%	21%	

Transition Support Service four-year evaluation

The Transitions Support Service (TSS) is underpinned by a graduated service model, which supports young people through their transition. This service starts from when young people are in care (including while they are in a care and protection or a youth justice residence), up until their 25th birthday. The eligibility age for entitlements through the Transitions Support Service is set out in sections 386AAD and 386A of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.

The service has been progressively developed from 2019, with the number of eligible young people increasing each year. At the end of 2023, there were 5146 young people eligible for one or more components of the TSS. Of these, two thirds are identified as Māori.

Malatest International conducted the four-year evaluation¹² of how well the TSS is supporting young people who are

leaving care. The key findings included that overall, TSS is valued by the young people it supports and that the service improves their lives. The evaluation found sufficient evidence that the TSS design meets the needs of young people.

Analysis shows that TSS is creating positive change for young people in terms of employment and income, and more favourable justice sector outcomes. The Transition Assistance Line has developed and grown in response to identified needs. Following the adoption of a holistic model of support, young people were overwhelmingly positive about the support they received from the transition assistance line.

Assistance provided by the line varied by life stage of the young people with health being the greatest area of support requested by those over 21 and education, housing and getting a transition worker being the most common requests from those aged 16-20 years.

¹² Read more about the four-year evaluation at: www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/About-us/Research/Latest-research/Transition-Support-Service-four-year-evaluation/TSS-Evaluation-report.pdf

Despite the positive responses of young people and those who support them, there were several persistent issues identified:

- Housing shortage was the main barrier for young people transitioning to independence from care and Youth Justice.
- Oranga Tamariki planning and preparing young people for transition out of care is inconsistent and for those who left care a third felt their whānau was not involved as much as they would have liked in the planning process.

Transition workers and providers advocated widening the eligibility criteria to support young people who have not been in care or custody for three continuous months after the age of 14 years and 9 months, and when warranted to extend support past the age of 25.

Recommendations from the Evaluation include:

- Ensuring ongoing and adequate funding for transition support.
- Improve Oranga Tamariki planning processes and rates of referrals for transition support.
- Enable equity of access to transition support for young people.
- Develop ways to improve access to support for young people with multi-layered support needs.
- Improve reporting systems to enable more accurate monitoring and identification of young people's support needs.
- Continue to work with other central and regional government agencies to address the systemic barriers to effective transition.

The Just Sayin' survey¹³ forms part of a total review of TSS that included, the Transitions Helpline Evaluation, and early outcomes analysis. This report provides the views of young people eligible for TSS who answered the survey and provides comparisons with earlier surveys. The 2023 report provides a summary of the fourth survey that TSS have completed with young people who have been in care or in a youth justice residence and are eligible for transition worker support.

Young people are invited to complete the survey, with 376 young people between the ages of 16 and 21 completing it this year. Almost half (49 percent) of the young people surveyed identified as rangatahi Māori which was the lowest response from rangatahi Māori over the four years this survey has been completed.

In the fourth year of the Just Sayin' survey of young people eligible for TSS we heard:

- 81 percent thought their transitions worker made things better for them.
- Of those still in care, 59 percent said they thought Oranga Tamariki made things better.
- 82 percent of tamariki surveyed felt safe where they live.
- 61 percent had an adult they could turn to.

Of note, 61 percent of rangatahi Māori who completed the survey were supported by a Māori TSS partner or transition worker. This percentage has increased over the survey years. Of those rangatahi who did not have a Māori TSS partner, 28 percent would like to be supported by one. Just over half of rangatahi Māori wanted to know more about their whakapapa.

Understanding the needs of takatāpui tamariki and rangatahi in care

Data and analysis commissioned by Oranga Tamariki across the 2023-2024 period has helped shed light on the needs of takatāpui tamariki and rangatahi, and the size of this group who have been involved with/or had placement within the Oranga Tamariki system. The Oranga Tamariki literature review, Takatāpui in Care¹⁴ reported that challenges commonly faced by takatāpui rangatahi in care include Western systems and frameworks; limited access to culturally appropriate and responsive healthcare and support services; and social isolation.

Four reports commissioned by Oranga Tamariki to analyse Identify Survey data¹⁵ from respondents between 14–26 who reported having ever been involved with Oranga Tamariki (or its predecessor) reported that a smaller proportion of

13 Read more on the findings of the Just Sayin' 2023 survey at: www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/About-us/Research/Latest-research/Transition-Support-Service-four-year-evaluation/Just-Sayin-23-report.pdf

14 Read more about the Takatāpui in Care Literature Review at: www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/About-us/Research/Latest-research/Rainbow-young-people-with-Oranga-Tamariki-Involvement/Takatapui-in-Care.pdf

15 Read more about the four reports that analyse Identify Survey data at: www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/research/our-research/rainbow-young-people-with-oranga-tamariki-involvement/

young people with Oranga Tamariki involvement said they felt comfortable as a rainbow person in their cultural and ethnic communities compared to young people with no involvement.

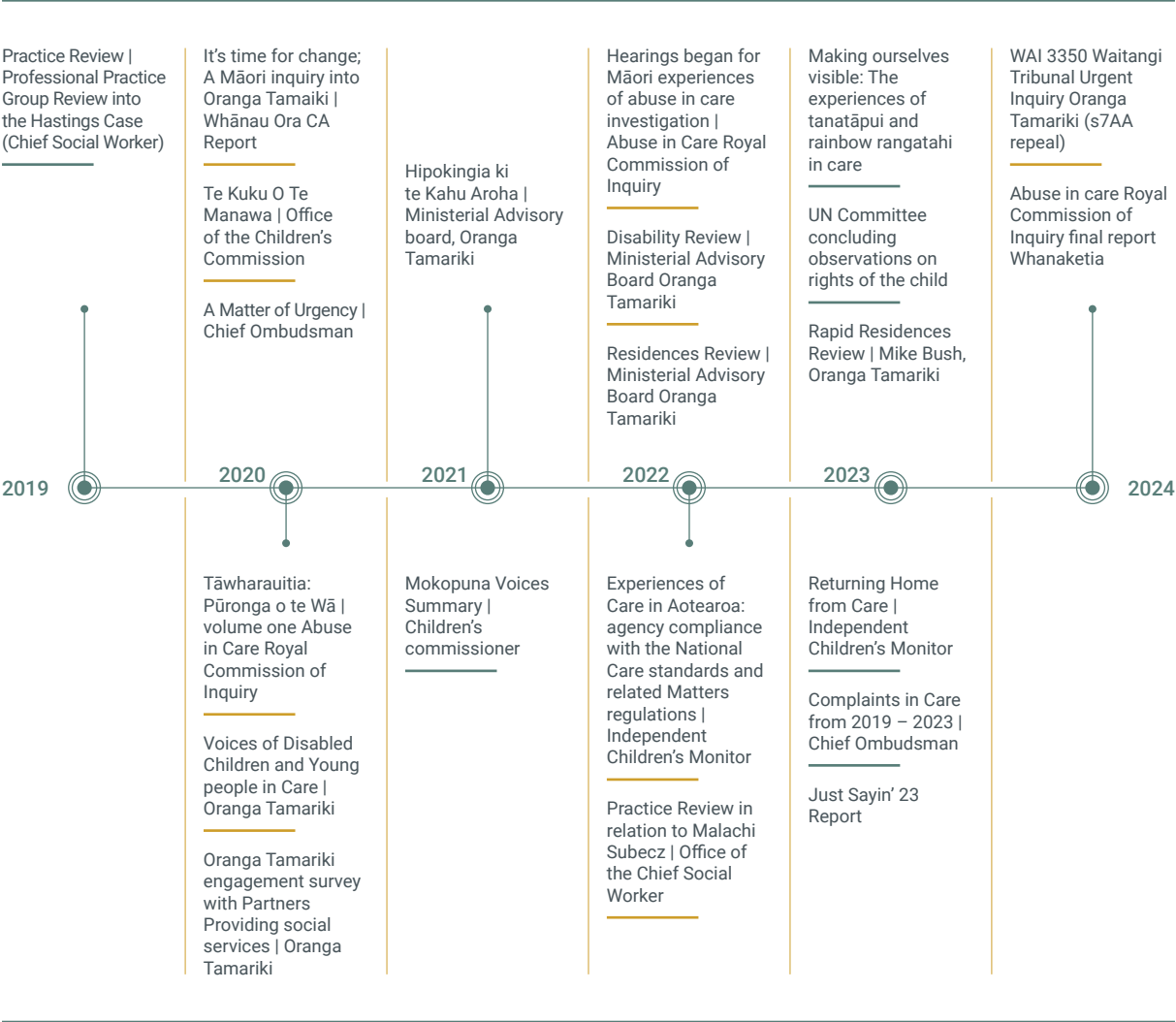
The insights provided by the research will inform the way Oranga Tamariki develops our capacity to support takatāpui tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau. We will develop this capacity through our Rainbow Work Programme¹⁶ and Rainbow Advisory Function, led by the recently created Senior Advisor Rainbow Voices role. Community guidance emphasised that it is critically important that the Rainbow Advisory Function is takatāpui led and involves connecting to wider takatāpui expertise to inform and guide the organisation. Both are in development phase, awaiting resourcing to be confirmed following the organisational restructure.

16 The Rainbow Work Programme has been created to help Oranga Tamariki respond to the 46 recommendations provided to the organisation from the 'Making Ourselves Visible' report. Read more about the 'Making Ourselves Visible' report at: www.tengakaukahukura.nz/state-care

Te Wāhanga Tuarua

Acknowledging reviews

Oranga Tamariki has been the subject of multiple reviews since 2019 which we have covered in each of our previous reports. These reviews are identified as they are significant to the representation of tamariki Māori.



Royal Commission into Abuse in Care

The Royal Commission's final report, *Whanaketia – through pain and trauma, from darkness to light*, has been presented to Parliament and published on the Royal Commission's website (link here – *Whanaketia – Through pain and trauma, from darkness to light | Abuse in Care – Royal Commission of Inquiry*) in June 2024.

Almost 3,000 survivors have shared their experiences of abuse and neglect with the Royal Commission since it was established in 2018. The experiences they shared are a

taonga that will help change the care system for all children and adults and improve their lives.

We acknowledge those survivors who are members of our advisory groups and who work within the community. The report highlights the important role they play in helping us achieve better outcomes for the tamariki and whānau we serve.

It is also important that we acknowledge the intergenerational impacts of abuse in care. Many of the children and young people we continue to work with are part of families whose lives have been impacted by abuse in care.

The final report is comprehensive. It includes 16 volumes of material that cover context, what happened, why it happened, specific case studies, survivor experiences and recommendations for the future. It makes for hard reading, holding true to the accounts that survivors have shared about the nature, extent and impact of the abuse they experienced.

Complaints in Care from 2019 – 2023 by the Chief Ombudsman

In February 2024, the Chief Ombudsman released a report into Complaints in Care from 2019 – 2023¹⁷. Over 2000 complaints were received over the reporting period, but very few reached the threshold for investigation by the Chief Ombudsman. Of those that were investigated, almost half found no fault in actions taken by Oranga Tamariki kaimahi. The report highlighted key issues or themes arising in the complaints received. Of note to our S7AA legislation, there were complaints received that highlighted a failure to respect and engage with Māori in a culturally appropriate way, including not engaging with whānau, hapū and iwi, failing to consider tikanga-informed practice, and not considering Māori cultural frameworks or te Tiriti o Waitangi. Another theme identified was about young people stating they had not been listened to when they had complained about an issue.

Oranga Tamariki acknowledges the Ombudsman and his report as well as the people who came forward and shared their experiences with him. Our response to the Ombudsman's Children in Care report reflects the significant work that is already underway to address the concerns raised by the Ombudsman. As part of our wider work programme to respond to complaints made about Oranga Tamariki to the Ombudsman, we have also made changes to policy, guidance and training that were identified as needing attention including new practice guidance on advocacy for parents and whānau, and specific guidance and policies for cases involving unborn and newborn pēpi.

Waitangi Tribunal Urgent Inquiry WAI3350

The Waitangi Tribunal released the final report on the urgent inquiry regarding the Crown's proposed policy to repeal section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989. The report outlined the claims submitted to the Tribunal under urgency regarding the proposed repeal, it reviews the origins of Section 7AA and sought evidence from the Crown to substantiate its claims for the repeal. The report finds the repeal is inconsistent with the Crown's duties to the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles and found clear breaches.

Judge Doogan – Waitangi Tribunal 2024

“Māori do have particular rights guaranteed to them under the Treaty and honouring them has nothing to do with separatism and everything to do with accepting the fact that Māori actually have the right to live here, as Māori.”

Recent legislative changes have strengthened independent oversight

The Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022 came into effect on 1 May 2023, and the Children and Young People's Commission Act 2022 came into effect on 1 July 2023. These changes are intended to strengthen the independent oversight of the system by the Office of the Ombudsman and Aroturuki Tamariki – the Independent Children's Monitor, Kaitiaki Mana Tangata – the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Children and Young People's Commission, which replaced the Office of the Children's Commissioner.

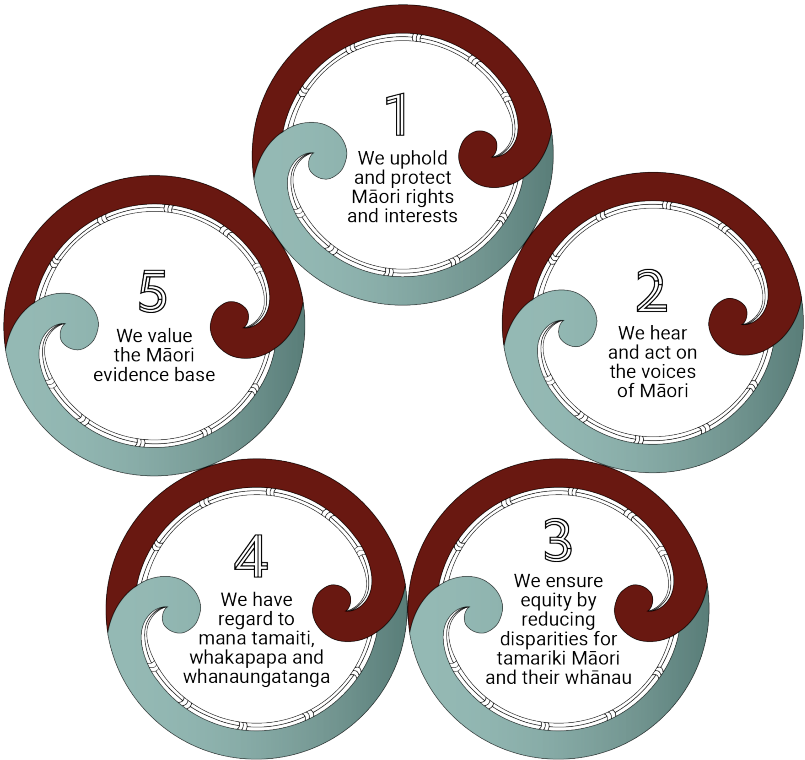
¹⁷ Read the full report here https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/sites/default/files/2024-02/Children%20in%20care%20complaints%20to%20the%20Ombudsman%202019%E2%80%932023_Digital.pdf

Quality Assurance Monitoring

The Quality Assurance (QA) standards shown in Figure Two are an internal auditing function. It enables us to evaluate our processes and provide assurance to the Chief Executive that we are meeting our obligations under section 7AA (2)(a) and (b) of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.

The standards are grounded in principles of the Treaty / te Tiriti that we need to meet when developing new policies, practices and services delivered by Oranga Tamariki or partners. The standards work in conjunction with the Mana Tamaiti measures. The mana tamaiti objectives set out what we are working towards to improve outcomes for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. The QA standards help us ensure our practice, policies and services are aligned to meet them.

Figure Two: Five Quality Assurance Standards



The Practice Centre is an online resource available to Oranga Tamariki staff and external partners including iwi and Māori organisations and our wider partner communities. It is a collection of ‘must-do’, ‘how-to’ and guidance for practitioners. The website acts as a home for our Practice Approach, Practice Framework, policy, guidance and other information to support our work with tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau.

For this report we assessed information provided by the Quality Practice and Experiences team for the Practice Centre website. The information provided had

been reviewed and approved by experts in practice and legislation before we reviewed it.

To assess information, we use the five assurance standards above. These were created to ensure that our approach to section 7AA(2)(a) and (b) had the right parameters in place to deliver improved outcomes for tamariki Māori by way of policies, practices or services. These standards incorporate key principles of the Treaty of Waitangi such as kāwanatanga and rangatiratanga, active protection and partnership.

The online information reviewed includes a vast array of information including policy and practice. The practice webpages covered were:

- Whai mātauranga in relational and inclusive disability practice¹⁸ and,
- Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) and neurodiversity¹⁹

Whai mātauranga forms part of the practice approach guiding practice when working with disabled people. The webpage includes various links to Disability Action Plans, video clips, diagrams and descriptions of te ao Māori principles of oranga and other websites that help the reader gain an informed understanding of how theory and policy guide practice. The webpage content links to the Practice Approach and discusses the areas of practice framework that relates to working with disabled people.

Consideration for Māori rights and interest is evidenced throughout this webpage. There is encouragement for kaimahi to partner with whānau in building an understanding of the whānau experience of disability and upholding the rights and mana of the disabled. Aspects of health are discussed from a te ao Māori perspective through notions of oranga and advocating not just for the individual but the whānau, as well as outlining benefits of connection to wider whānau, hapū and iwi.

The information provided reflects the voices of Māori throughout and is reflected in the discussion of disability through a Māori lens. Ensuring equity and reducing disparities for tamariki Māori and their whānau is evidenced in the success indicators through guidance on improving protective factors for both tamariki and whānau and discussions on safeguarding tamariki and rangatahi and outlining what a successful interventions and support looks like.

All discussions on the webpage point to having regard for mana tamaiti, whakapapa and whanaungatanga. It is clear the Practice Approach is laying the foundation to ensure all engagement with whānau and tāngata whaikaha is conducted through a te ao Māori lens.

Many links to other reports and literature are also included indicating a range of evidence and validation of the content that is included in this webpage.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and neurodiversity – this online guidance sets out how social workers can effectively support tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau regarding FASD and neurodiversity. The webpage includes links to multiple videos with expert information on behavior approaches and understanding and dealing with specific characteristics. There are also links to models of disability, Māori and Pacific cultural perspectives of disability together with a strengths-based approach to practice.

The guidance clearly articulates Māori rights and interests of tamariki and their whānau living with FASD, as well as outlining disability rights and interests with links to Tangata Whaikaha and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The site uses evidence and advice gathered from a range of experts and organisations and peer reviewed research. It has links to voices of Māori in relation to FASD, particularly from the Waitangi Tribunal Health Services and Outcomes kaupapa inquiry (WAI 2575).

18 Read more about Whai mātauranga at: practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/our-work/disability/practice-when-working-with-disabled-people/whai-matauranga-in-relational-and-inclusive-disability-practice/

19 Read more about FASD and neurodiversity at: practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/our-work/disability/practice-when-working-with-disabled-people/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder-fasd-and-neurodiversity/

Building Cultural Capability

We continue to implement our new Practice Approach

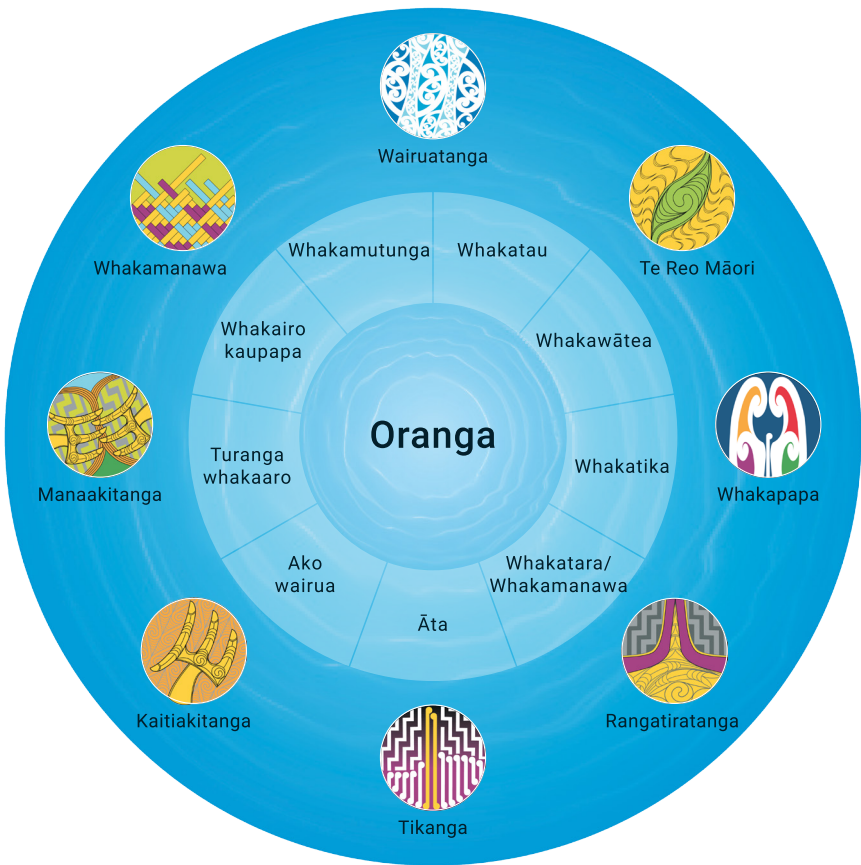
At the core of our statutory role is the social work profession, supported by a range of other professionals. We are committed to using a practice approach that is relational, inclusive and restorative with the tamariki, whānau, communities and partners we work with. We continue to implement and embed our Practice Approach²⁰, which enables social workers to better understand and meet the needs of tamariki, children, whānau and families, and work in new complementary ways with iwi, Māori and community-led approaches.

Our practice approach is framed by te Tiriti o Waitangi and supported by a mana enhancing paradigm for practice and draws

on Te Ao Māori principles of Oranga. Most of our practicing staff have completed two applied learning cycles over 2022/23 that upskilled them in the foundations of the Practice Approach. The final learning cycle for the practical application of new models, tools, and resources is being implemented over 2024 and early 2025.

We are committed to improving our supervision practices

Supervision is critical for enabling kaimahi to achieve the best outcomes when working with tamariki, children, whānau, and families. Providing consistent supervision for social workers that meets their needs and professional and regulatory supervision obligations is critical to enabling our kaimahi to be at their best. Supervision is critical for enabling kaimahi to achieve the best outcomes when working with tamariki, children, whānau, and families.



20 Read about our Practice Approach at: practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/practice-approach/

After a survey in 2021 with social workers and supervisors within Oranga Tamariki, development of a new supervision strategy was undertaken. This included the development and inclusion of a Tangata Whenua and Bicultural Supervision Model. This supervision model is a taonga gifted to Oranga Tamariki from Dr Moana Eruera, former Māori Director of the Practice Programme, and Dr Leland Ruwhiu, National Māori Practice Advisor.

Initially the model they arrived at was specifically for Māori. It was clearly mana enhancing and valued the use of kaiārahi (those who guide, support and mentor kaitiaki) and kaitiaki (those who care for, safeguard, protect and support tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori we engage with) to break the narrative of ‘power over’ that often is attached to the Supervisor–Supervisee relationship.

From these foundations, the Tangata Whenua and Bicultural Supervision Model has been developed to meet the needs of both kaimahi Māori and kaimahi Tauwi, within the organisational context of Oranga Tamariki. In improving our supervision practices, we endeavour to improve our cultural capabilities in working with whānau Māori.

Kaitiakitanga – Post Graduate Diploma in Professional Bicultural Supervision programme

The Professional Learning and Development Team at Oranga Tamariki plays a major role in helping to achieve our organisational priorities to build a culturally capable workforce. At the end of 2022, Oranga Tamariki joined in a partnership with Te Wānanga o Aotearoa where 20 kaimahi would receive sponsorship to enrol as taura in the Kaitiakitanga – Post Graduate Diploma in Professional Bicultural Supervision programme. Partnering with an indigenous tertiary provider like Te Wānanga o Aotearoa (TWoA) is integral to organically building cultural capability, enhancing prior knowledge, embraces te reo Māori me ona tikanga and supports learning from a mātauranga Māori lens.

TWoA is an indigenous tertiary education provider with more than 80 campuses across Aotearoa New Zealand. As a Māori led tertiary provider grounded in kaupapa wānanga, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa is committed to the revitalisation of te reo Māori, Māori kawa and tikanga and mātauranga Māori. TWoA recognised the need for Māori to break the inter-generational cycles of non-participation in tertiary education through their vision of “whānau transformation through education”.



As part of the Oranga Tamariki Professional Development Poutaki, Matewawe Pouwhare (Ngai Tuhoe, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Tuwharetoa me Ngā Puhi), and Senior Advisor Fa’aeafale’upolu Samuelu-So’o (Vaigaga, Sale’aula and Foālalo in Samoa) have been appointed the role of kaitiaki and kairangahau. They support our kaimahi on their journey with kaitiakitanga and are completing rangahau (research) into how kaitiakitanga can contribute to the cultural capability of Oranga Tamariki by supporting our practice approach, our supervision strategy including the Tangata Whenua Bicultural Supervision process which in turn supports our mahi with tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori.

Of the 20 kaimahi who began the journey of Kaitiakitanga with support from Oranga Tamariki, 19 completed the diploma (one had to leave early in the programme due to personal circumstances).

Professional Development Poutaki Māori Matewawe Pouwhare says it has been a privilege to be kaitiaki, alongside Senior Advisor Polu Samuelu, with this rōpū of Oranga Tamariki kaimahi. The kaimahi made a collective commitment to tiaki each other on this journey and shared their personal models of Kaitiakitanga with Oranga Tamariki leadership at a symposium held in Wellington, October 2023.

As these kaimahi return to their mahi with Oranga Tamariki they will continue to develop and utilise their knowledge and models of Kaitiakitanga with their ongoing mahi to support tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori.

There are 19 kaimahi currently enrolled in the 2024 cohorts of Kaitiakitanga programme offered by TWoA, supported by Oranga Tamariki, Matewawe, and graduates of Kaitiakitanga.

Kerri Blackmoore Freeland, (Kairaranga ā-whānau)

“Kaitiakitanga programme provides a platform to rangahau your herstory. To acknowledge and recognise the whakapapa connections of one’s life journey. To celebrate the scars and the triumphs. This programme invites taura to explore and or consolidate their beliefs about self, past present and future. To mohio yourself. When you know yourself, know how you connect through time, you are then better able to support others while they rediscover and reconnect to self, which will contribute to a movement of collective consciousness anchored by mātauranga Māori.”



Building Māori cultural capability for all kaimahi

Te Hāpai Ō is the whole of organisation approach to build Māori cultural capability of all staff at Oranga Tamariki. It is also our response to Whāinga Amorangi, the framework by Te Arawhiti that focuses on Māori Crown relationships.

Te Hāpai Ō continues to receive high interest and positive engagement from our staff related to building cultural capability through the following four workstreams:

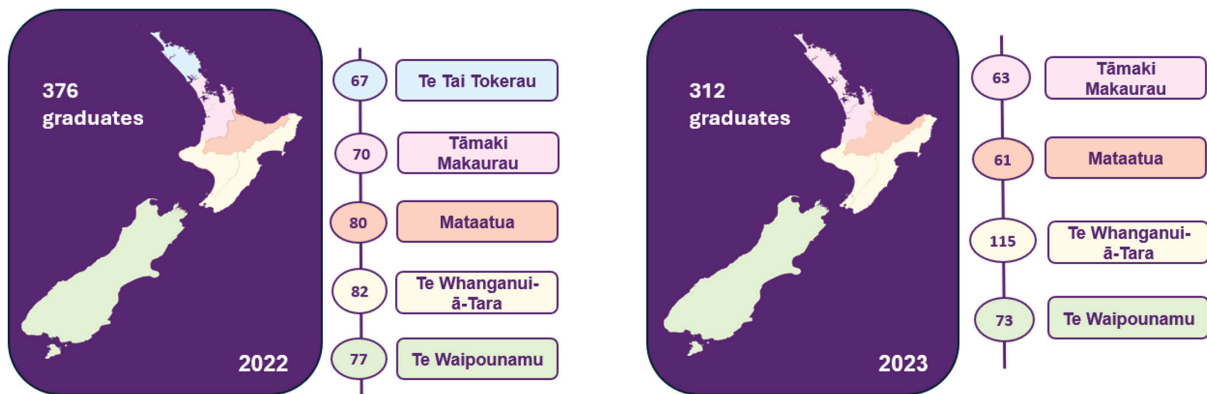
1. Tū Maia

Tū Māia is a learning programme designed to lift the Māori cultural capability of all staff incorporating online, face-to-face and self-directed learning.

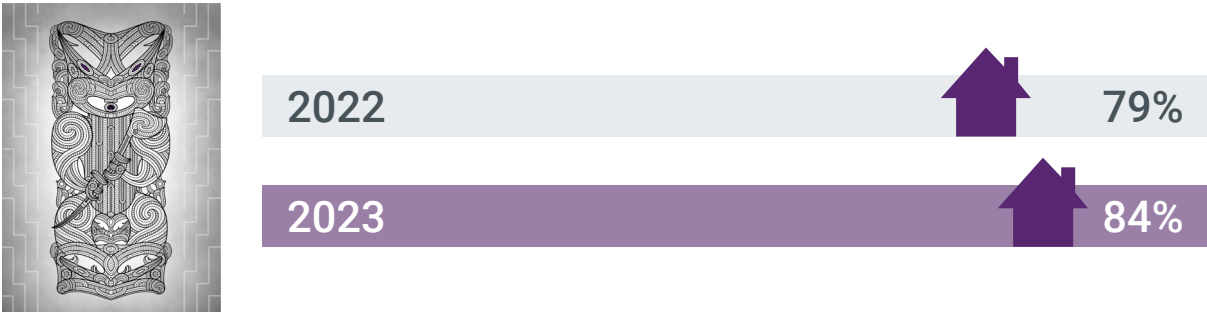
An active partnership continues to be a critical success factor between Oranga Tamariki and Te Taihū o Ngā Wānanga (the collective identity of Te Wānanga o Raukawa, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangī). The partnership allows Te Taihū o Ngā Wānanga to focus on delivery alongside alignment to cultural capability workstreams led by Oranga Tamariki.

In 2023, 312 Oranga Tamariki kaimahi successfully completed Tū Māia.

Delivery of Tū Māia was adjusted to an 18-week period an improvement from the previous 21-week delivery period in 2022.



Geographical boundaries were amended to align with our business demand resulting in four learning hubs instead of five in 2022.



Retention in 2023 improved from 2022, indicative of change in enrolment process, greater support from managers and improvements to overall delivery.

Oranga Tamariki continues to explore New Zealand Qualifications Authority accreditation of Tū Māia for potential delivery in 2025.

2. He Puna Rauemi

He Puna Rauemi is a suite of resources to support the cultural capability of Oranga Tamariki staff.

This year three resources are available to staff to enhance their understanding and awareness of Māori culture.



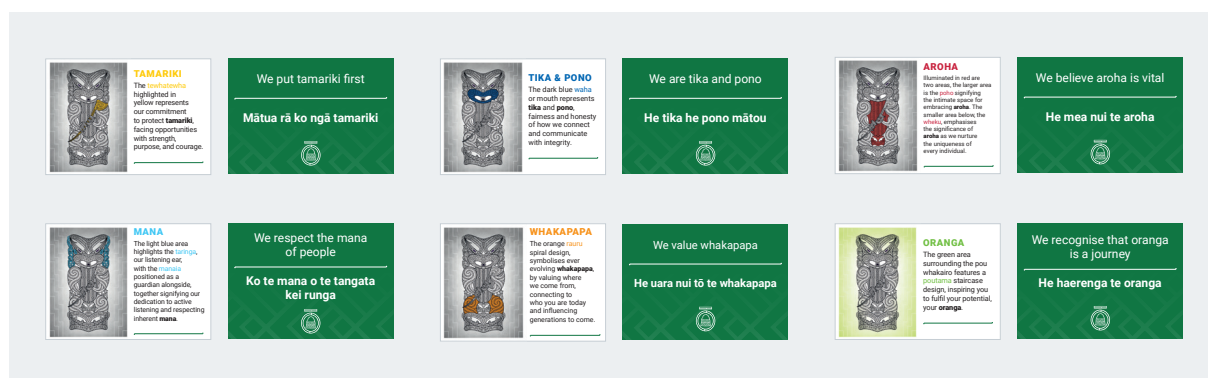
The **Taringa podcast series** developed by Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, has been a valuable tool for our kaimahi. This series covers a range of themes relevant to Te Ao Māori for staff to engage authentically with tamariki, rangatahi, and their whānau.

The **Ōpaki video series** produced by Whakaata Māori (Māori Television) is an engaging Te Reo Māori language programme for staff to meaningfully learn Te Reo Māori at their own pace, level and understanding.



Our **Ō Hoa Haere cards** are Oranga Tamariki values reflected through Te Ao Māori as our value statements are founded in Māori concepts. These cards are a physical reminder and portable resource for staff to apply our values to guide their interactions and decisions.

He Puna Rauemi will build on these resources in 2025 to continue to enhance our staff understanding and awareness of Māori culture.



Te Pihinga is an online survey which measures cultural capability at Oranga Tamariki, tracking progress and performance on an annual basis across the following six domains, shown to the right.

Our inaugural Te Pihinga report in 2022 indicated that cultural capability at Oranga Tamariki is 'okay.' The findings suggest that there is an awareness that cultural capability is important, but there is little knowledge about how to apply it.



The findings of Te Pihinga 2023 indicate that Oranga Tamariki is improving, where there are small but positive shifts in our cultural capability compared to 2022. However, Oranga Tamariki is yet to reach a state of maturity where culture is inherent.

The baseline measurement remains a priority in 2025 to ensure Oranga Tamariki continue to grow our cultural capability as individuals and as an organisation.

3. Te Kohure

Te Kohure is an evaluation framework to measure our cultural capability at Oranga Tamariki.

Te Kohure allows us to evaluate our organisational culture and cultural capability as a means of understanding the level of cultural maturity at Oranga Tamariki.

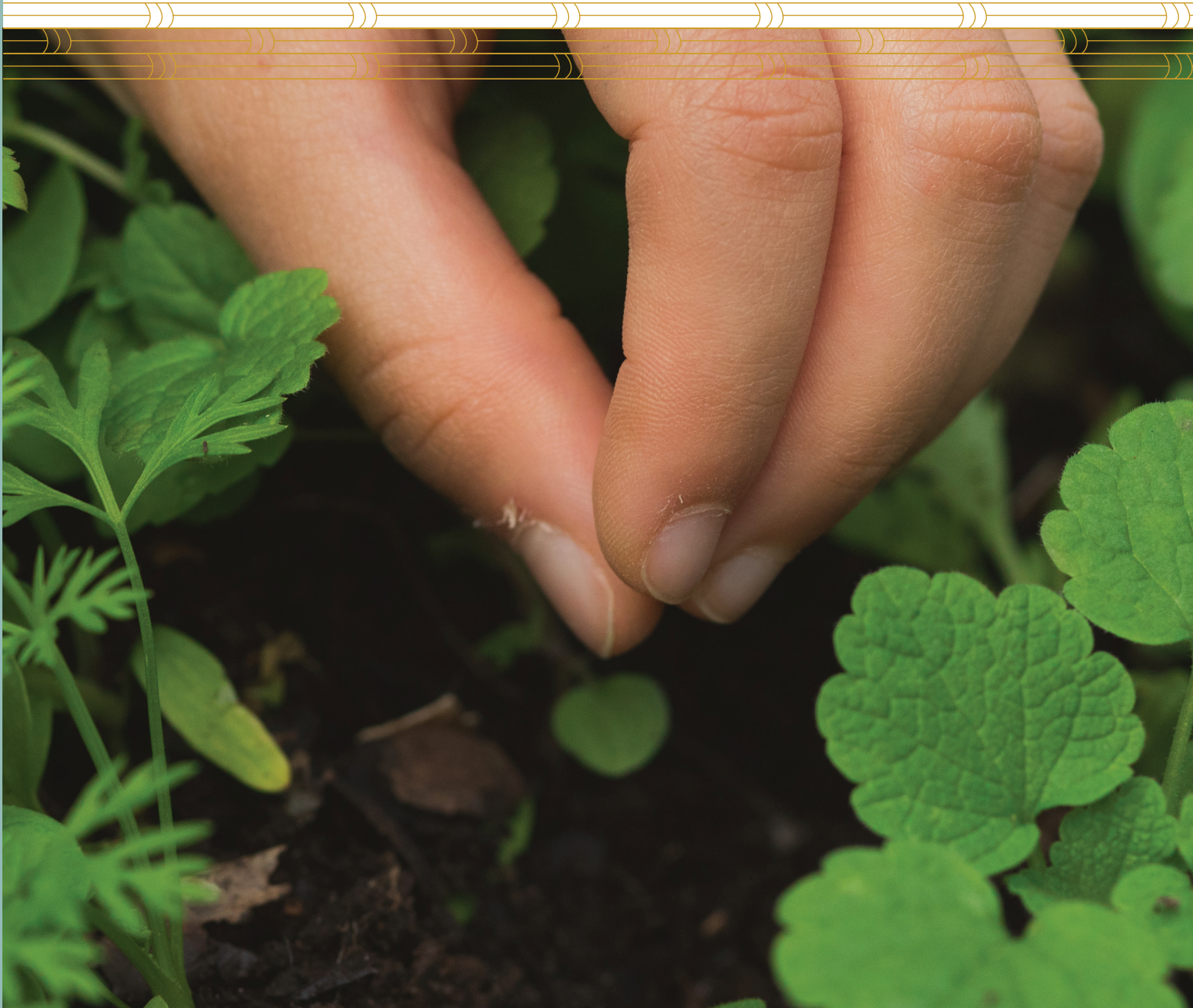
It is anticipated that this framework will be available in 2025.

4. Te Reo Māori Strategy

In accordance with the Maihi Karauna (the Crown's Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation), Oranga Tamariki is required to have a Māori Language Plan. Given our comprehensive approach to growing cultural capability, the development of a Te Reo Māori strategy and a Māori

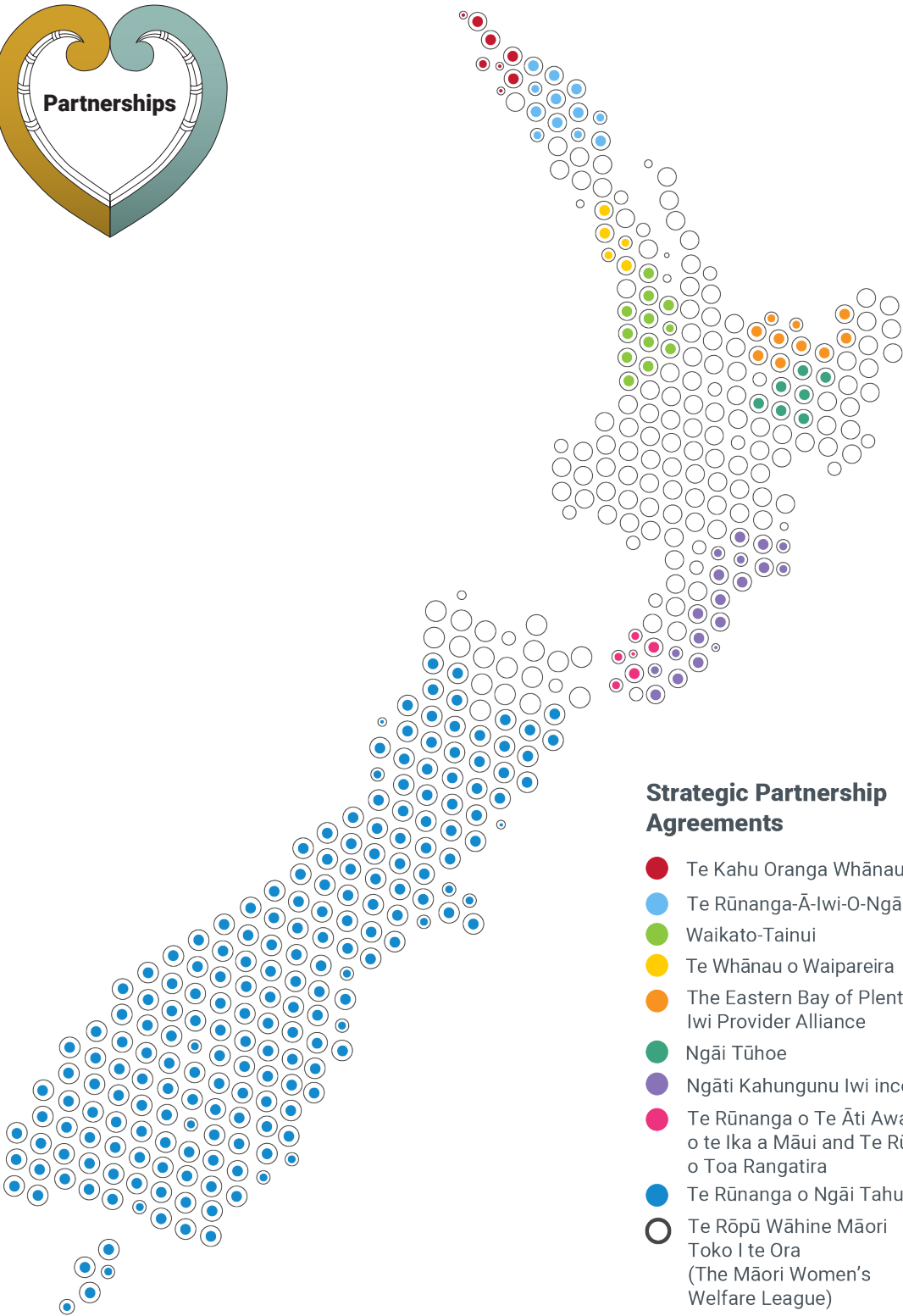
Language Plan are currently on hold. This has been endorsed by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori.

This will be reconsidered every year as Oranga Tamariki progresses towards cultural maturity.



Strategic Partnerships

Strategic partnerships are a key mechanism to meet our commitments and obligations under the Treaty / te Tiriti and Section 7AA.



Strategic Partnership Agreements

- Te Kahu Oranga Whānau
- Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-O-Ngāpuhi
- Waikato-Tainui
- Te Whānau o Waipareira
- The Eastern Bay of Plenty Iwi Provider Alliance
- Ngāi Tūhoe
- Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi incorporated.
- Te Rūnanga o Te Āti Awa ki te Upoko o te Ika a Māui and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
- Te Rōpū Wāhine Māori Toko I te Ora (The Māori Women's Welfare League)

Inaugural S7AA Strategic Partnership hui held in Pōneke

Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Te Āti Awa hosted the first section 7AA Strategic Partnership hui in November 2023. Eight of the ten Oranga Tamariki partners gathered alongside the Oranga Tamariki leadership team to discuss the partnerships, collective aspirations and Oranga Tamariki progress towards realising the vision of our Strategic Partnership agreements.

In this forum, Partners and the leadership team discussed work programmes, particularly how the Oranga Tamariki strategy impacts on social work practice. Partners also shared their collective perspectives about section 7AA, their own partnership agreements and their involvement in the Oranga Tamariki operating model.

Enabling Service Providers to hold statutory powers

Oranga Tamariki has a range of options to enable service providers to hold statutory powers.

Section 7AA (2)(c)(iv) provides opportunities for our Chief Executive with the agreement of the Minister for Children, to delegate some statutory powers that only Oranga Tamariki holds under the Act. The Chief Executive must seek to enter Strategic Partnerships in order to delegate statutory functions and powers to appropriate partners who are iwi and/or Māori organisations.

Oranga Tamariki may also:

- Approve an organisation as an iwi social service, cultural social service or child and family support service, enabling them to hold custody or guardianship of a child or young person themselves, and decide who to place that child or young person with; or
- Appoint employees of Service Providers as Family Group Conference coordinators

Examples of statutory powers and functions that could be delegated include:

- The receipt, assessment and/or investigation of reports of concern; or
- Oversight of Youth Justice sentences, including supervision with activity and supervision with residence.

Delegations can only be made to people who are appropriately qualified and are supported through contracts with Oranga Tamariki. During this reporting period we had four delegations in place:

Turuki Health Care Charitable Trust,

- Whakapai Hauora (Best Start Charitable Trust)
- Ngāti Awa Social and Health Services Trust (part of Eastern Bay of Plenty Alliance)
- Barnardos New Zealand incorporated.

In 2023/24:

Turuki Health Care Charitable Trust – qualified social workers worked with caregivers to develop and maintain an individual plan that supports the caregivers to meet the needs of a tamariki they care for.

Whakapai Hauora (Best Care Charitable Trust) – provided statutory youth justice services to tamariki Māori that enter the Youth Justice system within Palmerston North with the opportunity to access a Te Ao Māori pathway that supports their mana Motuhake.

Ngāti Awa Health and Social Services Trust – provided statutory youth justice services that promote the protection, and wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi within the Whakatāne area, with priority given to tamariki Māori who whakapapa to Ngāti Awa.

Barnados Incorporated New Zealand – this delegation was not exercised in 2023/24.

While delegation gives partners a greater role in decision-making and care of tamariki or rangatahi, our Chief Executive continues to remain accountable for the standard of care. More information on delegations can be found on the Oranga Tamariki website²¹.

Eastern Bay of Plenty community approach to Reports of Concern

Te Pūkāea o te Waiora (Te Pūkāea) is a tikanga-focused and community led contact centre which opened in Whakatāne in March 2024. It is a joint initiative between Te Tohu o Te Ora o Ngāti Awa and Eastern Bay of Plenty Iwi Provider Alliance that will shift care and protection decision-making and resources closer to communities. The aim of the partnership is to reduce the number of tamariki and whānau in the Eastern Bay of Plenty region who require the involvement of Oranga Tamariki.

The contact centre progresses the existing collaborative approach to Reports of Concern intake and assessments and is strengthened through the Enabling Communities programme. Te Pūkāea receive all calls and emails relevant to the Eastern Bay of Plenty region, which are re-routed from the Oranga Tamariki National Contact Centre. The call centre will also receive calls directly from other local agencies such as Police, Te Whatu Ora, community and whānau.

21 Read more on delegations and sub delegations at: www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/information-releases/delegation-and-subdelegation/

Te Wāhanga Tuatoru

The following workforce data covers a reporting end date that coincides with the Oranga Tamariki organisational structure and consequently does not reflect the positions and movement in positions as a result of the restructure.

WF. A	% of all staff who identified as Māori				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
	26.7%	27.1%	28.3%	28.4%	28.4%

WF. B	Changes for Māori across the Tiers				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Tier 3					
Total headcount	61	68	63	71	69
Māori headcount	8	17	15	14	13
% Disclosed ethnicity	83.6%	86.8%	82.5%	78%	69.6%
% Disclosed Māori ethnicity	15.7%	28.8%	28.8%	25%	27.1%
TIER 4					
Total headcount	212	224	216	216	206
Māori headcount	58	58	46	47	46
% Disclosed ethnicity	92.0%	89.3%	88.0%	81.5%	79.6%
% Disclosed Māori ethnicity	29.7%	29.0%	25.3%	26.7%	28.0%

Appendix One:

Definitions

Upholding Tikanga Māori within the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

The Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 is unique in that it has legislated the interpretation of mana tamaiti, whakapapa and whanaungatanga and how they should be applied in all our work in Oranga Tamariki. For tamariki and rangatahi, when considering the definitions of these terms, they must be seen in accordance with tikanga Māori:

- **mana tamaiti (tamariki)** means the intrinsic value and inherent dignity derived from a child or young person's whakapapa (genealogy) and their belonging to whānau, hapū, iwi or family group, in accordance with tikanga Māori or its equivalent in the culture of the child or young person.
- **whakapapa** in relation to a person, means the multi-generational kinship relationships that help to describe who the person is in terms of their mātua (parents) and tūpuna (ancestors) from whom they descend.
- **whanaungatanga** in relation to a person, means –
 - a. the purposeful carrying out of responsibilities based on obligations to whakapapa
 - b. the kinship that provides the foundations for reciprocal obligations and responsibilities to be met
 - c. the wider kinship ties that need to be protected and maintained to ensure the maintenance and protection of their sense of belonging, identity and connection.

Appendix Two:

Mana Tamaiti measures 2024

Mana Tamaiti measures summary and explanatory notes	
<p>Ensuring participation in decision-making</p>	<p>1A – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10-17 who feel they have a say in important decisions about their life, – results unavailable this year.</p> <p>1B – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for whom the views of their family/whānau/family group have been identified and considered. We rephrased this measure last year so that it aligns with the lead indicators for assessing our performance against the National Care Standards. The measure previously said, “Across all plans for tamariki Māori, there was information about the views of their family / whānau / family group”. Therefore, the data for 2021 cannot be compared. The previous measurement can be found in the Section 7AA 2022 report.</p> <p>1C – Percentage (%) of cases reviewed for tamariki Māori where there is evidence that parents were consulted before a decision was made about health or education matters.</p> <p>We have included caregiver in the NA-OT/caregiver sole guardian if Oranga Tamariki or the caregiver has sole guardianship of the tamaiti under s110(2)(a) of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989. Previously, the guidance was to select <i>NA – OT sole guardian</i> if Oranga Tamariki had sole guardianship of the tamaiti under s110(2)(a) of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989. This measure has been further broken down into two sub measures:</p> <p>1.C.1(a) – There is evidence that a parent or other legal guardian was consulted as part of the decision-making about health matters (percentage)</p> <p>1.C.1(b) – There is evidence that a parent or other legal guardian was consulted as part of the decision-making about education matters (percentage). We have added an additional NA option, NA- not in education if the tamaiti is under 18 months old and not in ECE or is 16 or over and in full-time paid employment.</p>
<p>Preventing entry into care or custody</p>	<p>2A – Percentage of all service contract funding with iwi and Māori Organisations</p> <p>2B – \$ spend with Māori/iwi providers,</p> <p>2C – % increase on previous year \$ spend,</p> <p>2D – Number of Māori/iwi providers</p>
<p>Placing with whānau, hapū and iwi</p>	<p>3A – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for more than three months living with a caregiver who are placed with Māori, nonwhānau caregivers,</p> <p>3A.1 – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for more than three months living with a caregiver, who are placed with whānau. The original measure read “% of tamariki Māori in an out of home placement for more than three months, who are placed with whānau Māori caregivers”,</p> <p>3B – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care who are placed with at least one other sibling who is also in care,</p> <p>3B.1 – Number of tamariki Māori in care who have siblings also in care</p> <p>3B.2 – Number of tamariki Māori siblings placed together</p>

Mana Tamaiti measures summary and explanatory notes	
Supporting identity and belonging	<p>4A – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori who have identified an iwi affiliation</p> <p>4B – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10-17 who are in touch with their whānau as they want to be.</p> <p>4C – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10-17 who know their whakapapa.</p> <p>4D – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10-17 who have the opportunity to learn about their culture.</p> <p>4E – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori with an identifiable hapū</p> <p>4F – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care who are being supported to have contact with their family, whānau or family group – This measure was not published in 2022 as a new measure was devised. The methodology for collating the data and how we measure the data for the original measure changed. The original measure read “% of tamariki and rangatahi Māori where important connections or contact arrangements have been identified with their hapū and iwi”.</p> <p>4G – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for more than three months whose plan reflects actions to establish, maintain or strengthen connections with their whānau and/or marae, hapū or iwi.</p>
Leaving care or custody	<p>5A – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori referred for another youth justice family group conference in the six months following release,</p> <p>5A.1 – Percentage (%) admitted to a youth justice residence who are tamariki Māori. This measure was reworded for clarity last year, the methodology for collating data and how we measure this has not changed. The original measure read “% tamariki Māori admitted to youth justice residence.”</p> <p>5B – Percentage (%) of eligible rangatahi Māori referred to a transition worker. These rangatahi are in our focus cohort – either 16 to 18 years old out of custody, and those 15 years and out of custody.</p> <p>5B.1 – Percentage (%) of eligible rangatahi Māori who have been offered a referral to a transition worker. These rangatahi are in our focus cohort – either 16 to 18 years old out of custody and those 15 years and out of custody. The offered rate includes rangatahi Māori who have either been referred or declined to work with a transition worker.</p> <p>5C – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori exiting out-of-home placements in the 18 months prior who re-entered an out-of-home placement.</p> <p>5.C.1 – year-on-year number and percent of tamariki Māori entering out-of-home placements in the 18 months prior who re-entered an out of-home placement</p>
Workforce Data	<p>WF. A – Percentage (%) of all staff who identified as Māori</p> <p>WF. B – Changes for Māori across the tiers (total headcount, Māori headcount, % disclosed ethnicity, % disclosed Māori ethnicity)</p>

Appendix Three:

Data caveats and considerations

Ethnicity data is based on all ethnicities recorded for a child or young person. In most cases the whānau/family have identified the ethnicity, and in some cases Oranga Tamariki may have identified the ethnicity. Ethnicity of children and young people who have not progressed past a report of concern has been identified by the person(s) making the report of concern and has not been verified by the whānau/family.

Ethnicity recording changes over time and improves the more we are involved with a child. For example, where a child has been reported to us, but does not progress further through our system, we may never know or capture their ethnicity. This can result in ethnicity being recorded as 'not specified'. Conversely, as a child progresses through the system their recorded ethnicities can change as further information is gained. Due to the continuous improvement in ethnicity recording over time, numbers, rates and percentages associated with a particular ethnicity may differ from those previously published. Grand totals however remain the same.

Changes in reporting practice for the non-Māori ethnicity category can cause variations from previously published data. Those with a 'not specified' ethnicity were once categories as non-Māori given that no indication of Māori ethnicity was recorded. Practice has since changed to exclude those with a 'not specified' ethnicity from the non-Māori category as this could not be verified.

Operational data changes can also result in variations from previously published data. While most grand totals of previously published data will remain the same, such as numbers of children in care, some numbers can only be sourced from operational data which is subject to change. Entries and exists from care can be affected by changes in operational data and so slight variations from previously published data or measures can occur.

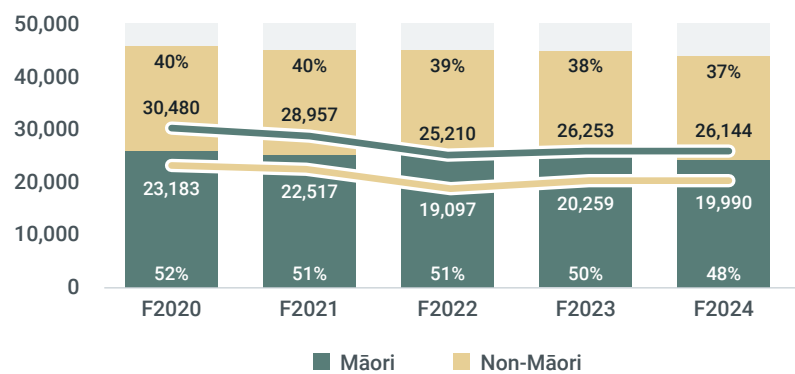
Appendix Four:

Disparity and disproportionality in the care and protection system

The graphs below show the number of unique tamariki involved in each step of the care and protection system and the ratio of tamariki Māori to non-Māori children. The data provided covers the last five years, from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2024. At a high level, the data shows that in all the years, tamariki Māori still accounted for more than half of the children in each step of the system. However, since the establishment of Oranga Tamariki, the number of tamariki Māori entering care has steadily decreased to its lowest point in many years at June 2022 but has begun to increase over the last couple of years.

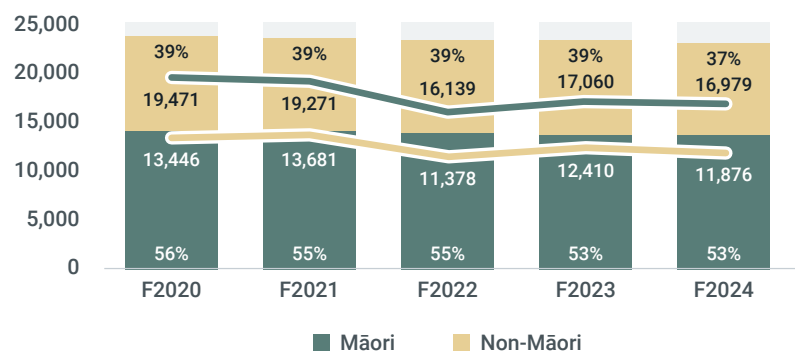
Over the last five years, the number of Reports of Concerns (RoCs) made to Oranga Tamariki have been decreasing with the lowest received in FY2022 (Figure 1), but the proportion of reports received for Māori has remained at approximately 50 percent. The disproportional number of reports received for tamariki Māori contributes significantly to the disparity seen across the following decision points in the Care and Protection system.

Figure 1 Distinct Reports of Concern



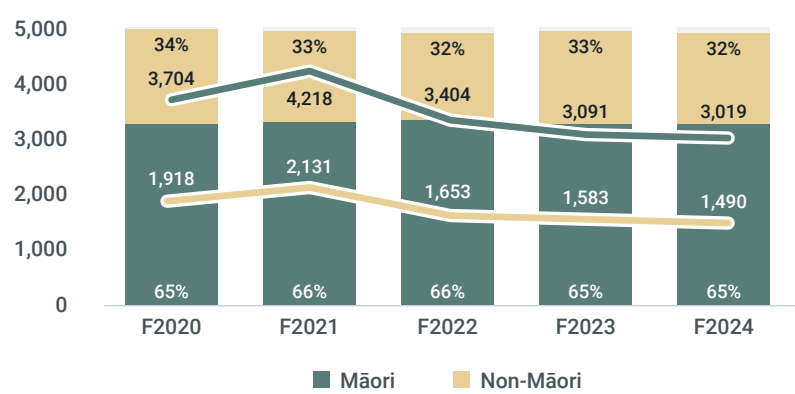
The number of tamariki referred for further assessment fell noticeably in FY2022 (Figure 2) but after a small increase has remained relatively stable since. The number of referrals for both tamariki Māori and non-Māori has decreased since FY2021, with the proportion for Māori falling slightly.

Figure 2 Distinct Referrals for Assessment



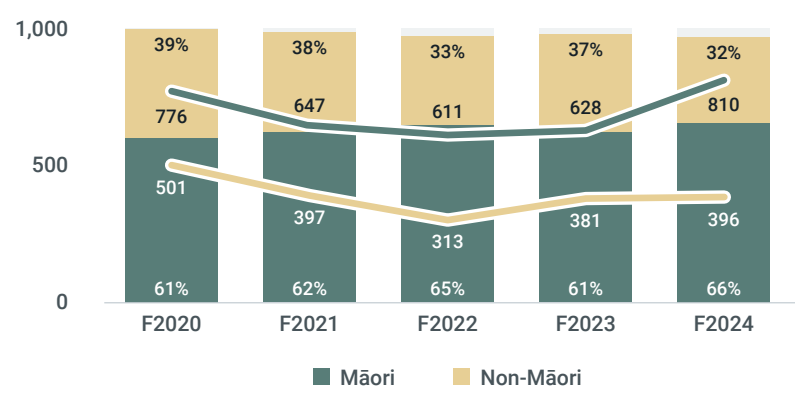
Significantly more FGCs are convened for tamariki Māori than non-Māori. However, FY2020 represented a significant low in the number of FGCs for tamariki Māori (Figure 3), which was potentially driven by COVID-19 restrictions. Since FY2021 FGCs for both tamariki Māori and non-Māori have been decreasing to the lowest in five years. As a proportion, the percentage of FGCs being held for tamariki Māori has remained fairly stable the past few years.

Figure 3 Distinct Family Group Conferences



In all years, tamariki Māori accounted for more than half of all children entering care (Figure 4) and was consistently higher than non-Māori. The number of tamariki Māori entering care has decreased significantly over time to the lowest ever in FY2022, however it has begun to increase since then. The number and proportion of tamariki Māori entering care has noticeably increased in FY2024 compared to non-Māori.

Figure 4 Distinct Entries to Care



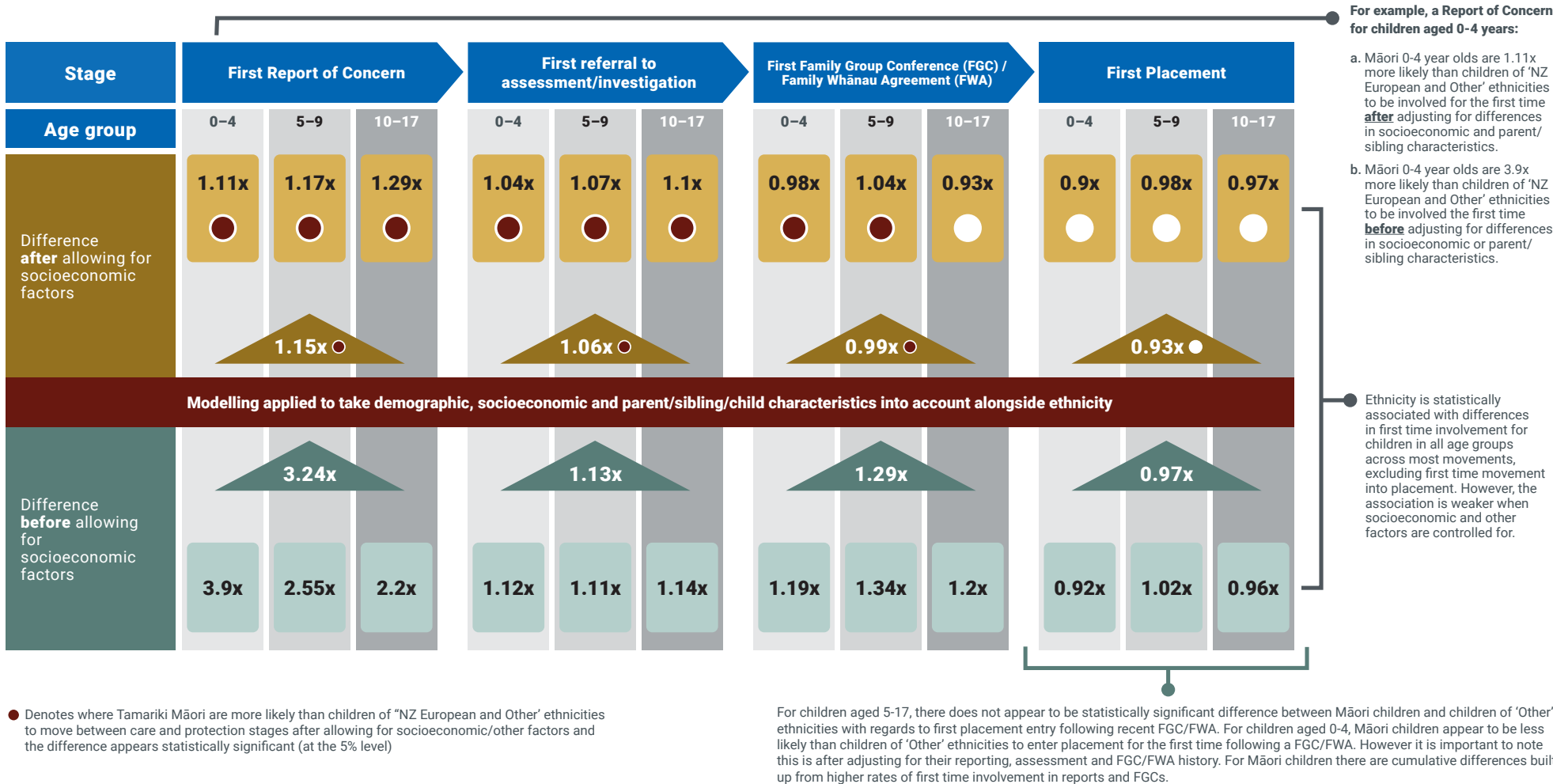
Appendix Five:

Drivers of disparity

The following information is based on a biennial update of figures from the previously published Oranga Tamariki report entitled 'Factors Associated with Disparities Experienced by Tamariki Māori in the Care and Protection System'.

Analysis completed in the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) into factors associated with ethnic disparities in the care and protection system unpicks some of these drivers and presents a quantitative analysis which demonstrates the extent to which demographic, socioeconomic and parent/sibling/child characteristics influence the disparities between Māori and 'NZ European& Other' ethnicities.

Figure 1: Relative likelihood of Tamariki Māori moving into each care and protection stage for the first time vs. children of 'NZ European and Other' ethnicities



This analysis compares disparities between two groups. 'Māori' includes all Tamariki who identify as Māori as one of their ethnicities. 'NZ European and Other' includes New Zealand European, European, Asian, Middle Eastern/Latin American/African and 'other' ethnicities. This analysis was conducted for CYF/Oranga Tamariki interactions over the ten-year period to 31 March 2020.